

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Riverbend Elementary School Receives \$115,000 Award**

**Haywood County, North Carolina – January 16, 2015**

Riverbend Elementary School was recently notified that it has received \$115,693 as a Title I “Reward School” in North Carolina. This follows the school’s previous recognition as National Blue Ribbon School in 2012. Riverbend Elementary joins Jonathan Valley Elementary and Bethel Elementary as schools in Haywood County who have received financial awards for sustained high academic performance.

There are over 1,250 Title I schools in North Carolina. Title I schools have a large percentage of economically disadvantaged students. The top 10% of Title I schools are designated as reward schools when there is sustained high academic performance in schools with an economic disadvantage rate of over 50% among the students. Of the 816 Kindergarten through fifth grade Title I schools in North Carolina, Riverbend had the highest performance composite among schools making academic growth. Riverbend was also one of two finalists for the National Title I Distinguished School Award. This national award is given for high academic performance and sustained student achievement over multiple years.

Dr. Anne Garrett, superintendent said, “We are so proud of the students, staff and community partners at Riverbend Elementary School. They are a model for teaching and learning in the 21st Century. They have proven that all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, can learn at very high levels.”

The \$115,693 award is designed to reward the school for past excellence in performance while enhancing instructional resources and staff training at the school. The award money is available during the current school year. None of the award funds may be used to supplant or offset current operational costs.

Jill Chambers, principal said, “We are honored and overwhelmed with gratitude. This award is the result of hard work from our children, staff and community supporters. When I asked our student roundtable group how we should use the money, they actually wanted to help less fortunate people. While that is not permitted, we did get their ideas about resources that can help us get even better.”

Dr. Bill Nolte, associate superintendent said, “We are so fortunate to have so many outstanding schools. We are truly blessed to be in this community with our students and staff members. Riverbend is a leader among great schools.”

**Haywood County Schools**  
**1230 North Main Street**  
**Waynesville, NC 28786**

**[www.haywood.k12.nc.us](http://www.haywood.k12.nc.us)**

Contact: Dr. Bill Nolte, Associate Superintendent

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